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A radio talk by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, 2-2 1932 ★ broadcast by a network of 49 associate NBC stations, Tuesday, July 5, 1932. U.S. Department of Agriculture

Well folks, the Fourth of July with its picnics and celebrations is over, and we can all get back to our gardens, and to our farms with a determination to have plenty to eat regardless of what else happens. You folks who live in the South have no doubt enjoyed the good things from your spring gardens, but now comes the time when crabgrass and weeds are inclined to overrun your gardens for the balance of the season, that is, if you don't do something about it. Those of us who live in the latitude of Washington, D. C. are now reveling in our fresh snap beans, early potatoes, and tomatoes, while most of you who live in the more northern parts of the country are just beginning to get home products from your gardens.

What I want to emphasize today is the desirability of keeping your gardens working, and of making additional plantings of certain vegetables in order to maintain a supply during the late summer and the fall. Now is the time to make second plantings, or, in some localities third plantings of snap beans, sweet corn, carrots, beets, and tomatoes. You folks who live in the South have no doubt been enjoying your ripe tomatoes, but along about the middle of July your tomato vines die and you will have very few if any tomatoes for the balance of the season. Why don't you southern gardeners sow some seed now and grow a crop of tomatoes in your gardens for late summer and fall use? You'll find the Marglobe variety well adapted for late planting.

In the central and northern sections, late plantings must be timed so as to mature before frost, in fact, you folks living along the Canadian border have about all you can do to mature one, or, at most two plantings of sweet corn and tomatoes. Under favorable conditions, you can make three plantings of snap beans and get by with it. Here around Washington, we can make five or six plantings of snap beans and three or four plantings of sweet corn. I generally make two plantings of tomatoes, the first about the 10th of May and the second about the Fourth of July, and those two plantings keep us supplied with ripe tomatoes from about the 25th of June until frost with plenty of green tomatoes for ripening in the cellar after frost has killed the vines.

Now I want to call your attention to a few points that may help you in getting certain garden crops started during hot, and perhaps, dry weather. For example, if you sow beets in hot, dry soil without any special preparation your chances of getting a stand are very poor. I've found that I get best results when I thoroughly prepare the ground several days in advance of planting so that the soil will settle, or you can roll or drag the soil until it is well packed and firm. When it comes to the actual planting, I open the furrows with the corner of a hoe and flood the bottom of each furrow with water. After the water has soaked into the soil, I scatter the seeds in the furrows, cover them and firm the soil well over them. It is a good plan to

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lay a board over the row and walk upon the board to firm the soil underneath it, or you can leave the board over the row for a day or two until the seeds begin to sprout. The board shades the soil and prevents the loss of moisture. When planting garden seeds in comparatively dry soil, it is important to firm the soil over the seeds so as to retain the moisture contact with the subsoil.

Another point, certain varieties of vegetables are better adapted for late planting than others. Occasionally, an early variety will do well when planted late in the season, but as a rule, you should use late varieties for late planting. The various strains of Evergreen sweet corn are a good example.

Proper cultivation is another factor in growing a good late garden. The peak of the weed season is generally over by the middle of the summer, but you want to go right on cultivating and stirring the soil just the same. Then the careful use of nitrate of soda, or some other quick acting fertilizer may help to boost your crops along.

Watering the summer and fall garden will often help. I have two irrigation systems in my garden, the overhead sprinklers which are supplied with water from a well by means of an electrically driven pump, and on part of my garden I have the furrow system by which the water is allowed to flow in little furrows alongside the rows of vegetables. Watering the garden is all right, provided you give your crops enough water to really do them some good, but light sprinkling of the surface may do more harm than good. Mulching the plants with fine straw, leaves, pine needles or fine manure will aid in holding the moisture supply in the soil during dry periods.

Now folks, I have just merely mentioned a few practices that may be of help to you in keeping your home food gardens working for the remainder of the summer, and well into the fall. Perhaps you may have a surplus to lay by for the winter, and you may want a few pointers on the storage of vegetables, but we will have them later.